



AETC News Clips

Columbus AFB, Miss.



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Pilot resigns in cheating incident

Staff report

An Air Force instructor pilot resigned from the service amid charges that he helped 12 student pilots cheat on an emergency-procedures quiz.

Richard Brimer, who had held the rank of captain, was discharged under other than honorable conditions May 25, according to Rick Johnson, a spokesman for Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. Brimer had been a T-37 Tweet instructor with the 41st Flying Training Squadron at Columbus.

Brimer was facing a court-martial. He avoided the public trial by offering his resignation, Johnson said.

In July 2005 he was charged with conduct unbecoming an officer for distributing controlled test answers, making a false statement and failure to obey a lawful regulation.

The names of Brimer's students haven't been released.

All 12 student pilots were removed from the flying program in 2005, Johnson said. Nine of the students were administratively separated from the Air Force, Johnson said. Another left the service on his own.

Two other students, members of the guard and reserve, were returned to the home units. Information wasn't available on their current status.

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AETC News Clips

Sheppard AFB, Texas



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Ethanol to fill up Sheppard vehicles

Clayton J. Hein

Times Record News

It might be made available only to vehicles used by Sheppard personnel, but alternative fuel is filling up gas tanks in the area nonetheless.

Monday Sheppard will have a ribbon-cutting for new E85 and B20 bio-diesel fuels stations, according to a Sheppard press release.

"Sheppard is doing its part to reduce our dependence on foreign fuel," the press release stated.

"The Federal Government is required to decrease their petroleum usage," said Michelle Kautz, director of communications for the National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition.

And Monday's ribbon cutting ceremony at Sheppard represents a "large step forward in doing so."

E85 is a mixture of 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline. Ethanol is a 200-proof grain alcohol generally made from corn, but can also be produced from wheat, barley or potatoes.

B20 bio-diesel is an ester-based fuel from vegetable oils or animal fats. It can be made from oilseed crops like soybeans, canola, cotton seed and mustard seed.

Both types of fuel average about 70 cents cheaper per gallon than regular gasoline, the press release stated.

But what does that mean to the rest of Wichita Falls consumers?

With E85 gaining popularity across the United States, the local demand might be driven up creating the possibility of an independent alternative-fuel station being built in the area, said Alex Mills, president of the local Texas Alliance of Energy Producers.

The largest distributor of E85 in Texas is H-E-B, the grocery company, the Web site stated, with five stations located in Texas. But all locations are mainly located in the area starting in Waco and going south toward San Antonio.

The price of alternative fuels is competitive but the infrastructure of the ethanol industry remains shaky, Mills said. And transportation continues to be one of the major problems.

According to the National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition's Web site, Sheppard's E85 fuel station will be the 13th E85 station in Texas, and the third military base with it in Texas.

Reporter Clayton J. Hein can be reached at HeinC@timesrecordnews.com or by phone at (940) 763-7597.

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AETC News Clips

Vance AFB, Okla.



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Vance contractors, union reach tentative pact

- By Jeff Mullin
- Senior Writer
June 10, 2006
- Page A1 and A3

Vance Air Force Base's primary contractors and the union representing nearly 900 workers have reached a tentative agreement on a three-year contract, officials said Friday. Both Jerry McCune, president and directing business representative for District 171 of International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, and John Cole, program manager for Computer Sciences Corp., confirmed a tentative contract agreement has been reached.

Members of IAMAW Local 898 who work for CSC and Trend Western will vote on the proposed contract today. Polls will be open 5 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the union hall, 1901 N. Washington. Local 898 is part of District 171, which encompasses five locals in northern Oklahoma and southern Kansas.

McCune said copies of the proposed contract were distributed Friday to member employees of CSC and Trend Western.

He would not release details of the pact in advance of the vote but called it "a good contract with some increases in wages, pensions and some of the benefits."

The union's nine-member negotiating committee voted unanimously to recommend the membership accept the proposal. That recommendation was sent to members along with the proposed contract.

McCune called the proposal a "middle of the road" agreement, and added: "We didn't get everything we asked for, but we got enough that we believe it is a good, livable contract." The present agreement, adopted in 2003, expires at midnight Sunday. Negotiations on the proposed new deal began in April and concluded Thursday evening.

"We are positive," said McCune, "and anticipate ratification. Then, we can move forward with good relations at the base and keep flying those airplanes."

Cole declined comment in advance of the vote on the proposal.

"Once this is completed it will add stability to Vance and reaffirm our commitment to keep the airplanes flying and keep them in good condition," said McCune. "We are proud of the base."

CSC and Trend Western employees do a variety of jobs at Vance, from groundskeeping to aircraft maintenance. Vance was the first Air Force pilot training base to employ civilian contractors. Serv-Air was the contractor from 1960-1972, when the contract was assumed by Northrop, later Northrop Grumman. DynCorp took over the contract in July 2000. CSC bought DynCorp in December 2002.

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Vance AFB, Okla.



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Contract at Vance approved

- By Tippi Rasp
Staff Writer
- June 11, 2006
- Page A1 & A3

Members of International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers who work for Vance Air Force Base's primary contractors approved a proposed contract with a 55 percent majority, officials said after polls closed Saturday.

Jerry McCune, president and directing business representative for District 171 of IAMAW, said workers ratified the three-year contract for nearly 900 employees of Computer Sciences Corp. and Trend Western.

"We do have a contract. We're looking forward to three years of stability at the base, working on planes and making pilots," McCune said.

The employees are members of IAMAW Local 898, part of District 171, which encompasses five locals in northern Oklahoma and southern Kansas.

John Merz, human resources manager for Computer Sciences Corp., said he was looking forward to getting back to work Monday after working for the last couple of months on contract negotiations.

"I think we've got a good one (contract) and a fair one," Merz said. "We love our part of what we do for Enid."

McCune said copies of the proposed contract were distributed Friday to member employees of CSC and Trend Western. He called it "a good contract with some increases in wages, pensions and some of the benefits."

The union's nine-member negotiating committee voted unanimously to recommend the membership accept the proposal. That recommendation was sent to members along with the proposed contract.

McCune called the proposal a "middle of the road" agreement, and added: "We didn't get everything we asked for, but we got enough that we believe it is a good, livable contract."

The present agreement, adopted in 2003, expires at midnight tonight. Negotiations on the proposed new deal began in April and concluded Thursday evening.

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AETC commander addresses graduates at Vance AFB

- By Jeff Mullin
- Senior Writer
- June 10, 2006

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America is the greatest nation in the world not because of its wealth or power, Air Force four-star Gen. William Looney said during a graduation ceremony Friday at Vance Air Force Base, but because of the value it places on the individual.

Looney, commander of Air Education and Training Command, of which Vance is a part, addressed the graduation of Joint Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training class 06-10 before a nearly full house in the base auditorium.

"The reason America is great is because of what we value and what we believe," said Looney. "First we value the individual above all others. That's why we revolted in 1775 and began the revolution in 1776."

Looney said Americans also believe in the tenets set forth in the Declaration of Independence, that every person is entitled to life, liberty and pursuit of happiness.

"I don't want to give the impression that it's an even playing field," said Looney. "It is not, and it never will be, no matter how hard we try. But what is great about America is everybody gets on the playing field. Then it's up to the individual to determine the results of their efforts."

He advised the graduates not to feel as if they had "arrived" upon receiving their wings as military pilots but to look ahead to their role as part of the U.S. military.

"After all," Looney said, "who can do what we can do?"

Looney said the U.S. military can provide humanitarian relief at disaster scenes around the world, as well as deliver the kind of precision bombing seen this week when terrorist leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi was killed by U.S. bombs while at a meeting in a safe house.

"On the other end of that spectrum," he said, "in a place far away in the dead of night, as seven terrorists sit around plotting death and destruction for innocents — children, men and women and members of our military — we can deliver precisely, in a city block on a row of houses, death and destruction at the end of two 500-pound bombs delivered by F-16s.

"Goodbye al-Zarqawi, and good riddance."

Looney, who earned his wings in 1973 at Sheppard Air Force Base in Texas, said there was "something special" about everything that went into the operation targeting al-Zarqawi, the leader of al-Qaida in Iraq.

"It was all done by American fighting men and women," said Looney. "That's what makes us what we are today, and who we are. That's what you're joining. That's the journey you are about to begin."

A warrior, Looney said, "brings hope in times of adversity, strength in times of adversity. But more importantly, the warrior brings a guarantee of peace and freedom to every American and every generation that will follow."

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Class 06-10 consisted of 15 Air Force officers, one Navy officer and one from the Italian Air Force.

A graduation ceremony for an undergraduate pilot training class at Vance is held every three weeks.